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Message Text

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60
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /072 W
---------- 045553
R 031519Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4975
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF
SUBJECT: GOE STATEMENT ON ME NEGOTIATIONS

REF: JN 0308264

1. REF REPORTS AHRAM STORY JULY 3 QUOTING RESPONSIBLE EGYPTIAN SOURCE AS SAYING: QUOTE THE EGYPTIAN POSITION IS KNOWN AND CLEAR; THAT IS, ISRAEL'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PASSES AND THE OILFIELDS AS A SECOND MILITARY STEP IN THE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE FORCES. IF ISRAEL REFUSES TO WITHDRAW, THIS WILL MEAN THAT IT DOES NOT WATN PEACE.
THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS, AND WE ARE STRESSING THAT THE DISCUSSION NOW SHOULD BE ON CREATING THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH CARRYING OUT MILITARY STEPS WHICH DO NOT TOUCH ON POLITICAL MATTERS. THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THESE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS IS TO TEST INTENTIONS, PROVE GOOD WILL, AND SHOW A DESIRE TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE STATE OF NO WAR, NO PEACE. THIS IS
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A LONG TOUGH ROAD WHICH DEMANDS PRECISE PREPARATIONS,

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EXACTLY LIKE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR. UNQUOTE.

2. ONLY AHRAM'S FIRST EDITION CARRIES THIS REPORT. AHRAM'S DIPLOMATIC EDITOR HAMDI FUAD TELLS US HE WROTE STORY; SOURCE, HE SAYS, IS SOMEONE "VERY BIG", LEAVING CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT HE IS REFERRING TO DEP PM/FONMIN FAHMI. ONLY EXPLANATION FUAD COULD GIVE FOR OMISSION OF WHAT HE TERMED "THIS MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT" FROM SECOND AND THIRD EDITIONS OF AHRAM WAS SPACE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WHEN EMBOFF ORIGINALLY CONTACTED FUAD IN CONNECTION REFERENCED FBIS ITEM, FUAD EXPRESSED GREAT SURPRISE THAT EMBASSY HAD SEEN STATEMENT; HE SAID HE HAD EXPECTED STORY TO BE PRINTED TODAY, BUT WHEN IT DID NOT APPEAR HE ASSUMED IT HAD BEEN STOPPED "HIGHER UP". (HE, TOO, HAD MISSED FIRST EDITION.)

3. GUMHURIYYA'S DIPLOMATIC EDITOR HODA TAWFIQ HAS STORY IN JULY 3 ARTICLE THAT CONTAINS SOME ELEMENTS OF GOE STATEMENT, BUT CONTEXT SOFTENS IT CONSIDERABLY. IN DISCUSSIO OF EGYPTIAN STAND SHE DEFINES ONE OF BASIC PRINCIPLES AS "ANY NEW WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI MUST HAVE MEANING AND OBJECTIVE,NAMELY, TOTAL PULL-BACK FROM THE STRATEGIC PASSES AND OILFIELDS IN SINAI DOWN TO THE GULD. THIS WAS THE STAND DURING ASWAN TALKS AND REMAINS SO TODAY, WITHOUT DEALING WITH COMPLEMENTARY ASPECTS CONCERNING GUARANTEES SO THAT THE NEW (EGYPTIAN) POSITIONS MAY NOT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL." IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI STAND TAWFIQ WITES: "THERE IS A TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN HAWKS AND DOVES...BUT THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE WHEN AMERICA HAS INITIATED ANY NEW MOVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS TIME RABIN IS TRYING TO AROUSE US FEARS BYTHREATENING TO RESIGN IF THE US CONTINUES TO EXERT PRESSURE. THUS WE ARE CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS CIRCLE WHICH HAS NO MEANING OTHER THAN THAT ISRAEL REFUSES TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE. THE RETURN TO THE PRE-ASWAN POSITION IS ONLY A RETURN TO SQUARE ONE, AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED IN THE INTEVAL." TAWFIQ CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT US REALIZES EGYPT CANNOT END THE STATE OF WAR BEFORE CONCUDING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. "US ROLE IS NOW ONE OF RAISING THE LEVEL OF EFFORTS TO THEUTMOST, TO THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF. WE CAN ONLY WAIT AND SEE."

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4. COMMENT: WE ASSUME FROM DELETION FUAD'S STORY FROM LATER EDITIONS OF AHRAM THAT GOE DECIDED STATEMENT WAS UNNECESSARILY STRONG REITERATION OF GOE POSITION AND OPTED FOR TAWFIQ'S VERSION INSTEAD.
EILTS

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